

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT POVEDA: HIS VIEWS ON GOE FOREIGN
POLICY, PLANS FOR RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, ROLE OF
VELASCO IBARRA, AND THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

1. IN A CONVERSATION AT HIS HOME MARCH 10 WITH SUPREME COUNCIL
PRESIDENT VICE ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA BURBANO, HE GAVE HIS VIEWS ON
A NUMBER OF POLICIES AND PEOPLE. THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONVER-
SATION FOLLOW.

2. FOREIGN POLICY: THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT HE THOUGHT US-
ECUADOREAN RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED AND ASKED WHETHER I SHARED
HIS VIEW. I CONCURRED. HE SAID HE HAD DISCOVERED TO HIS
SURPRISE THAT THERE WERE NO WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO ECUADOREAN
AMBASSADORS ON WHAT THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE GOE WAS, INCLUD-
ING AS IT RELATED TO THE US. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID THAT
IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO HIM THAT HE SACK THE AMBASSADOR TO
BRAZIL BECAUSE HE HAD NOT BEEN "ENERGETIC" IN CARRYING OUT
HIS ASSIGNMENT. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD INQUIRED WHAT
THE AMBASSADOR'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE AND HAD BEEN TOLD
THAT THERE WERE NONE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE ADMIRAL
SAID, HE HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE BRAZILIANS HAD MADE
SEVERAL PROPOSALS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT THAT IT HAD
NOT ACTED UPON THEM. (IT WAS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT AT THIS

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POINT I STIFLED THE IMPULSE TO OFFER THE PRESIDENT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PREPARE AN ECUADOREAN CASP.)

3. COMMENTING ON THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR (GUERMAN E. CHLIAPNIKOV), THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS PURSUING A VERY "AGGRESSIVE POLICY". HE HAD SHOWN UP UN-INVITED AT A LOCAL FESTIVAL IN AMBATO AND HAD INSTIGATED A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WAS THE ONLY AMBASSADOR INVITED. ACUTALLY, THE ADMIRAL SAID, THE AMBASSADOR HAD SHOVED HIS WAY INTO MEETINGS, LUNCHEONS, AND WHAT NOT, MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE SPONSORS OF THE FESTIVAL. I OBSERVED THAT PEDRO SAAD, HEAD OF THE PCE, HAD RECENTLY CONDEMNED THE GOVERNING JUNTA AND ACCUSED IT OF NOT CARRYING ON WITH THE REFORMS AND CHANGES OF THE RODRIGUEZ LARA GOVERNMENT. POVEDA SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THAT AND WONDERED WHAT "CHANGES" CARRIED OUT BY RODRIGUEZ LARA AND PCE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

4. POLITICAL SITUATION: REGARDING THE GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE DIALOG WITH POLITICAL PARTIES AND PUBLIC SECTORS. WITH RESPECT TO THE PARTIES, HE SAID THAT THE GOE'S INTENTION WAS TO "ORIENT" AND "CONCENTRATE" THE PUBLIC IN POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH REFLECTED VIEWS OF NUMBERS OF PEOPLE RATHER THAN PERSONAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADERS OR PERSONALITIES. I ASKED WHETHER THE GOE INTENDED TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PARTIES, AND HE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS STILL UNDER STUDY. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, HE EXPECTED THAT THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO POPULAR VOTE AND THAT THEN THE PERSONALITIES INVOLVED WOULD ALSO BE POPULARLY ELECTED.

5. VELASCO IBARRA: THE ADMIRAL SAID HE KNOWN VELASCO IBARRA FOR A LONG TIME, HAD ALWAYS GOTTEN ALONG WELL WITH HIM, AND CONSIDERED HIM AN INTELLIGENT AND WELL INFORMED MAN, BUT ONE WHO DID NOT KNOW HOW TO GOVERN. ON NAVAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS HE CONSIDERED VELASCO IBARRA RELATIVELY UNINFORMED AND MOST DIFFICULT TO INSTRUCT. AT THE MOMENT, HE SAID, VELASCO IBARRA WAS NOT A WELL MAN, AND HE REFERRED TO PRIVATE MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT VELASCO IBARRA'S STATE OF HEALTH. HE THOUGHT VELASCO IBARRA WOULD LIKE TO CON-

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CLUDE HIS CAREER WITH AN ACT OF STATESMANSHIP, AND HE GAVE EVERY INDICATION OF HOPING TO PROVIDE HIM WITH THE OPPORTUNITY. HE MENTIONED HOW PERON HAD CHANGED HIS POLITICAL IDEALS DURING HIS YEARS IN EXILE, AND SAID HE THOUGHT VELASCO IBARRA HD, TOO, AND "COULD BE AN INSTRUMENT" TO FACILITATE THE GOE'S PLANS OF A TRANSITION TO A LEGAL ORDER. WITHOUT EXPLICITLY SAYING SO, HE MADE CLEAR HE THOUGHT VELASCO IBARRA MIGHT BE USED TO TRUMP CFP LEADER

ASAAD BUCARAM'S ACE. I ASKED THE PRESIDENT WHY HE DID
NOT INVITE VELASCO IBARRA TO COME BACK TO THE COUNTRY.
THEN, AND HE SAID THAT THIS WAS WHAT HE WAS PLANNING BUT
THAT IT HAD TO BE HANDLED DELICATELY BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE
WERE AFRAID OF VELASCO IBARRA'S RETURN.
BREWSTER

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